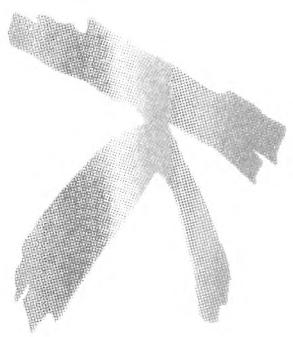




ZOO GOER

CELEBRATING ZOO BREEDING PROGRAMS



A Kodak Moment.

Ektachrome Elite 100 film is Kodak's sharpest Ektachrome ever, with the finest grain of any 100-speed slide film. It delivers outstanding color accuracy, and details so sharp, nothing will go unnoticed. Not even a chameleon.



Catch what might otherwise go unnoticed.





1996: CELEBRATING ZOO BREEDING PROGRAMS

Over the past few decades, zoos have become metaphoric life rafts for endangered species. Carefully orchestrated zoo breeding programs now help wildlife populations in several ways. First, there are some animals—including Pere David's deer and Prezwalski's horse—that are extinct in the wild, surviving only in zoos until safe habitat can be set aside to reintroduce them. Second, zoo reintroduction programs are bolstering dwindling wild populations of such animals as the golden lion tamarin, a small monkey that still hangs on in isolated blocks of its Brazilian habitat. Third, many endangered animals like tigers, orangutans, and rhinoceroses are being bred at many zoos with the hopes that self-sustaining, genetically diverse zoo populations will provide insurance against possible extinction in the wild. And finally, zoo breeding of non-endangered species like the green tree python often enables institutions to exchange species popular in zoos rather than collect them from the wild.

The American Zoo Association, an umbrella group for accredited North American zoos, helps coordinate formal breeding plans called Species Survival Plans (SSPs). SSPs ensure the development of self-sustaining zoo populations of declining species. The National Zoo has helped establish and coordinate many SSPs, and currently participates in SSPs for 29 species.

As the Smithsonian Institution celebrates its 150th year, the National Zoo, with its unique collection of animals, celebrates its 107th. Over the years, the Zoo has grown in scope and importance, from a place breeding a few endangered American bison to a leader in global conservation programs. This year's FONZ calendar celebrates that success by highlighting just a handful of the Zoo's achievements in breeding threatened and endangered species.



RED WOLVES

In 1973, conservationists, fearing the impending extinction of the red wolf, established a zoo breeding program with the last of the red wolves known to survive in the wild. Eleven cubs have been raised at the Zoo since 1990, when it became the nineteenth zoo to participate in breeding the red wolf as a part of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's recovery plan. Many of the cubs have been reintroduced to wildlife reserves in the Appalachians and along the southeastern U.S. coast, and there are now more than 100 red wolves in zoos and in the wild.

J A N U A R Y

Sunday

Monday

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Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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6

New Year's Day

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

FONZ winter classes
for children begin

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

● New Moon

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
Birthday

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

1958—FONZ founded

● First Quarter

28

29

30

31

DECEMBER

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FEBRUARY

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PREZWALSKI'S HORSE

The only truly wild horses that survived to be scientifically studied, Prezwalski's horses once inhabited the grasslands, steppes, and semi-arid shrub country of Kazakhstan, China's Sinkiang province, Mongolia, and Siberia. Though they are considered extinct in the wild, specimens taken from the wild in the late 1800s have provided a modern breeding pool of more than 600 animals in zoos and field stations, including the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center. Two herds were successfully released on a reserve in Mongolia in 1994, providing hope that they may once again breed in the wild.



F E B R U A R Y

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JANUARY

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MARCH

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		24	25	26	27	28
		29	30			
		31				

○Full Moon

4

5

6

Black History Month begins

Groundhog Day

3

11

●Last Quarter

12

13

14

15

16

17

Lincoln's Birthday

●New Moon

18

19

20

Valentine's Day

22

23

24

President's Day

25

●First Quarter

26

27

Ash Wednesday

29

Washington's Birthday





GUAM RAIL

Though a secretive bird, adapted to both woodland and forest-edge habitats, the flightless Guam rail was unable to withstand predation by the brown tree snake that was introduced to its island home after World War II. About a decade ago, with few of these rails left on Guam, researchers began to establish a zoo population in the United States, and they have since worked to rebuild the wild population through a breeding program involving 16 zoos and the Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources. Sixty-two Guam rails have hatched at the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center; a total of 84 have been released on Rota, an island near Guam.

M A R C H

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Saturday

FEBRUARY

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APRIL

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3

4

○Full Moon

5

Purim begins at sundown

10

11

●Last Quarter

12

6

7

Women's History Month begins

8

2

1889—National Zoological Park established

FONZ spring classes for children begin

17

18

●New Moon

19

13

14

15

16

St. Patrick's Day

24/31

25

●First Quarter

26

Vernal equinox

27

28

29

30

FONZ Seal Days

FONZ Seal Days
Palm Sunday on the 31st

GREEN TREE PYTHON

The green tree python is actually brilliant yellow when it hatches, and does not transform to its namesake bright green until it reaches six to eight months old. Green tree pythons, which are native to the tropical forests of New Guinea and extreme northeastern Australia, excel in zoo breeding programs. Zoo keepers regulate day length, light level, humidity, and temperature to ensure success in breeding these colorful reptiles.



APRIL

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

4

5

6

April Fool's Day

Passover begins at sundown

Good Friday

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

Easter Sunday
Daylight Savings Time begins
2 a.m. ("spring forward" 1 hour)

African American Family
Celebration at the Zoo
Easter Monday

14

15

16

● New Moon

17

18

19

20

FONZ Earth Day Celebration

21

22

23

24

● First Quarter

25

26

27

28

29

30

MARCH

S M T W T F S

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31

MAY

S M T W T F S

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26 27 28 29 30 31



ARABIAN ORYX

The last known wild Arabian oryx was killed in 1972, but fortunately an international breeding program began in 1962 when nine Arabian oryx were brought to the U.S. Now, as a result of a reintroduction program, nearly 300 of these animals live on reserves established in Oman and Saudi Arabia. Since the first Arabian oryx arrived at the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center in 1987, 23 calves have been born. Many of these young animals have been reintroduced to reserves in the wild.

M A Y

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APRIL						
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5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Asian-Pacific Heritage Month begins

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

ZooFari for kids

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

ZooFari

Mother's Day 26 27 28 29 30 31

●First Quarter

Memorial Day



○Full Moon

●Last Quarter

●New Moon

BONGO

Occupying the forest regions of Africa from Sierra Leone to Kenya, bongos are rarely seen, deep-forest dwellers. These elusive animals were not seen in zoos until the 1970s, and the first zoo birth took place at the National Zoo in August of 1971. Much anticipation surrounded this birth because the bongo's gestation period had never before been recorded. Even today much remains to be learned about these animals, both in zoos and in the wild.



J U N E

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MAY						
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JULY						
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○ Full Moon

9

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● New Moon

16

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18

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21

22

Father's Day

○ Full Moon on the 30th 23/30

● First Quarter

24

25

26

Summer solstice

27

28

29

Summer Safari begins

Sunset Serenades

Zoo Night





GOLDEN LION TAMARINS

1996 marks the twelfth anniversary of the National Zoo's first reintroduction of a zoo-born golden lion tamarin into Brazil's Atlantic coastal forest. Visitors to the Zoo in the summertime can see free-ranging tamarins in the park—animals that are practicing their survival skills before they're flown to Brazil for reintroduction. With more than 450 golden lion tamarins in institutions throughout the world and about 600 in the wild, scientists are now hopeful that they may someday soon reach their goal of a wild tamarin population of 2,000.

J U L Y

Sunday

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Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

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3

4

5

6

Independence Day

● Last Quarter

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

● New Moon

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

Sunset Serenades

21

22

● First Quarter

23

24

25

26

27

Sunset Serenades

28

29

● Full Moon

30

31

Sunset Serenades

JUNE

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AUGUST

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LOWLAND GORILLA

The Zoo has celebrated the births of three lowland gorillas in the last four years. These gorillas, which occupy the tropical rainforests of equatorial Africa, form tight social units in which only one dominant male breeds. Zoo staff have worked hard to establish a stable social group of lowland gorillas, and recent and anticipated births are testimony to their success.



AUGUST

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JULY

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SEPTEMBER

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>Last Quarter

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Sunset Serenades

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New Moon

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First Quarter

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23

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Full Moon

28

29

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31



MATSCHIE'S TREE KANGAROO

Eighty Matschie's tree kangaroos have been born at the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center (CRC) since April 1977. These brightly colored marsupials occupy the highland rainforests of eastern New Guinea, where they are heavily hunted. Researchers at CRC and elsewhere are attempting to establish a large breeding population in hopes of offsetting the consequences of overhunting.

SEPTEMBER

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● Last Quarter

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Labor Day

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14

FONZ fall classes for
children begin
Rosh Hashana begins
at sundown

15

16

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19

● First Quarter

20

21

Hispanic Heritage Month
begins

22

23

24

25

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28

Yom Kippur
begins at sundown
Autumnal equinox

29

30

● Full Moon

ZooArts Festival

ZooArts Festival

AUGUST

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OCTOBER

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WHITE-CHEEKED GIBBONS

The genus name for the gibbons, *Hylobates*, means “dweller in the trees.” As the name suggests, gibbons are arboreal animals adapted for life in the tropical forest canopy. The white-cheeked gibbons (shown here) are found in eastern Cambodia, southeast China, Laos, Vietnam, and the island of Hainan, where they are seriously threatened by deforestation. Eight white-cheeked gibbons have been born at the Zoo since 1988, and the Zoo is a major participant in the Species Survival Plan for these primates, holding over one-fifth of the North American zoo breeding population.



O C T O B E R

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Columbus Day (observed)

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Daylight Savings Time ends
2 a.m. ("fall back" 1 hour)

Halloween

SEPTEMBER

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NOVEMBER

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CHEETAH

Cheetah populations have rapidly declined over the last thirty years, and the remaining populations in southern and eastern Africa continue to be threatened by both hunting and habitat loss. Zoo breeding has been difficult, perhaps due to the genetic uniformity of the population, but the Zoo hopes to overcome the odds.



Gary Jacob

NOVEMBER

Sunday

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Saturday

OCTOBER						
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● Last Quarter

3

DECEMBER						
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						American Indian Heritage Month begins
						Running Wild at the Zoo
						9
						10
● New Moon	10					11
	11					12
			Election Day			13
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						16
						17
● First Quarter	17					18
	18					19
		Veteran's Day				20
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○ Full Moon	24					25
	25					26
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Thanksgiving

SUMATRAN TIGER

Five tiger subspecies occupy a variety of habitats from the Russian Far East to India and Indonesia. The total world population of tigers is now around 5,000—less than a tenth of what the tiger population in India alone was a century ago. The Zoo has been working for more than twenty-five years to curb this population decline through research and breeding programs. The Sumatran tiger has been a major focus of these programs, and this cub is one of four born at the Zoo in the last five years.



DECEMBER

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

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Thursday

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Saturday

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2

● Last Quarter

3

8

9

● New Moon

10

15

16

● First Quarter

17

22

23

○ Full Moon

24

29

30

● New Year's Eve

31

4

5

1973—National Zoo's
Conservation and Research
Center established

11

12

First night of Hanukkah
begins at sundown

18

19

25

26

Christmas Day

27

Winter solstice

28

1973—Congress enacted
Endangered Species Act

NOVEMBER

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JANUARY

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New Year's Eve



SLOTH BEAR

Although sloth bears' noisy feeding habits (such as sucking termites out of their mounds) make them easy targets for hunters, who can hear them up to 200 yards away, habitat loss has also significantly contributed to their population decline. These nocturnal animals occupy moist and dry forests of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Three sloth bears have been born at the Zoo in the past six years as part of a Species Survival Plan, and two of these were recently sent to the Cincinnati Zoo.

JANUARY

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DECEMBER						
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FEBRUARY						
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6

7

1

>Last Quarter

2

New Year's Day

8

New Moon

9

3

4

12

13

14

First Quarter

15

16

17

18

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
(observed)

19

20

21

22

Full Moon

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

Last Quarter

31



ZOO GOER

VOLUME 24 • NUMBER 5 • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER 1995

Friends of the National Zoo is a nonprofit organization of individuals, families, and organizations who are interested in helping to maintain the status of the National Zoological Park as one of the world's great zoos, to foster its use for education, research, and recreation, to increase and improve its facilities and collections, and to advance the welfare of its animals.

ZooGoer [ISSN 0163-416X] is published six times a year by Friends of the National Zoo to promote its aims and programs, and to provide information about FONZ activities to its members, volunteers, and others interested in the purposes of FONZ. Third class mailing permit no. 6282. Copyright 1995, Friends of the National Zoo, National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C. 20008.

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Director: Michael H. Robinson.

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 Signature _____ Exp. date _____

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